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ABSTRACT

This videotape (in either VHS of 3/4 inch format) presents an interactive teleconference where renowned national experts, local educators, and community leaders share ideas on how to improve schools and reach the National Educational Goals. This 60-minute Satellite Town Meeting focuses on laying the foundation for school success through readiness to read. It offers an opportunity for networking with people across the nation who share a commitment to building community partnerships and a common vision of educational excellence for all children. It features programs with strong parent involvement, well-qualified teachers, a wealth of language activities, and ongoing, meaningful communication between adults and children. Secretary of Education Rod Paige and guest panelists Lue Alma Sumlin, Reid Lyon, Dea Salter, Sharon Darling, and Norma Garza address such questions as: Why emphasize reading and language with young children? What does a quality early learning environment look like for pre-school children? What activities can parents do to help lay the foundation for reading? What types of professional development should early childhood professionals undergo to ensure students are prepared for elementary school? How can family literacy programs help children to be ready to read as they help to break the inter-generational cycle of literacy? What role can public schools play in assuring all 3- to 5-year-old children have quality learning experiences? and How can schools build partnerships with local childcare providers, businesses, social service agencies, and others to strengthen early learning? (RS)

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